

VIETNAMESE AFFAIRS STAFF

Approved For Release 2004/06/14 : CIA-RDP80R01720R0035-7

DATE: 30 Oct 72

TO: The Director  
FROM: GACarver, Jr.  
SUBJECT:

REMARKS:

Attached are (A) a packet given to Henry Saturday afternoon (28 October) and (B) copies of what I left in the Situation Room last night (29 October) to be given to Al Haig first thing this morning.

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George A. Carver, Jr.  
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachments

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VIETNAMESE AFFAIRS STAFF  
Approved For Release 2004/06/14 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000400090035-7  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

DATE: 28 Oct 72

TO: Dr. Henry A. Kissinger  
Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs  
FROM: GACarver, Jr.  
SUBJECT:

REMARKS:

Attached are two notes prepared for  
me by FBIS at my request. You may find  
them of interest.

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George A. Carver, Jr.  
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

Attachments

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28 October 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: George A. Carver, Jr.  
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

SUBJECT : The Question of Terminology for "Administration"

1. There are several terms in the Vietnamese language which, depending on the user or the context, may be translated as "government," "administration," or "administrative." Chinh phu is the most widely used term for "government." It is used by Saigon and Hanoi alike. The second term, chinh quyen, usually is used to refer to "administration," but often as a substitute term for "government." The third term is hanh chanh (chinh). This term has, and is used for, the connotation of the administrative machinery or body; it frequently is used in the adjectival form.

2. Throughout Hanoi's statement only two terms are used, chinh phu and chinh quyen. Chinh Phu is used in sections dealing with reference to the sides involved, i.e., the U.S., the DRV, the PRGRSV, and the GVN governments. In the point on setting up an "administrative structure," Hanoi used co cau chinh quyen, literally "administrative or government structure." While it is not wrong, linguistically, to use chinh quyen, the term defies precise definition. One needs further details to determine this.

3. Hanoi commonly uses the term chinh quyen, or a variation on this term, nguy quyen, on the other hand, to refer to the Saigon government. The terms mean "administration" or "puppet administration" respectively in this context; this is borne out in Hanoi's own English language broadcasts for which corresponding Vietnamese texts are made available.

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4. While Hanoi did not use the word hanh chinh (or chanh) anywhere in this statement, the term is both in their lexicon and in current usage in North Vietnam. The head of the governmental structure at all levels below the central level is entitled "The Chairman of the Administrative Committee of (municipality, province, district, etc.)," the Vietnamese term being Chu tich uy ban hanh chinh . . . .

5. On the basis of the fragmentary information available to us, we cannot be sure how much weight ought to be put on Hanoi's selection of terms. Their use of "chinh quyen" as their Vietnamese label for the tripartite "administrative structure", however, could be a deliberate selection to give it (in Vietnamese) somewhat more status or weight than the English term "administrative structure" would normally convey. (The better literal Vietnamese translation for the latter would be "hanh chinh.") The terminology Hanoi employs ("chinh quyen") will probably lift the eyebrows of Saigon's lawyers, especially if the latter are in a skeptical or suspicious mood. In this instance, Saigon's suspicions or skepticism would have a considerable degree of linguistic foundation. "Chinh Phu" is the standard Vietnamese term for "government." "Hanh chinh" is a sterile, neutral term with few overtones or connotations other than "machinery" (in a subordinate bureaucratic sense). "Quyen" by itself means "authority." Hence the term "chinh quyen" does incorporate the concept of "authority" and conveys or suggests a body with considerably more clout than a simple "hanh chinh."

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[Redacted]  
Asia/Africa Division

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